Landberg Life's
Second Block

BHandling Life's Second Bests"
By Harry Emerson Fosdick.
Text:Acts 16:7-10.

The message so strong, so peculiarly appealing to me that I feel as tho I must bring it to you as best I can.

Read text.

The account so simply told hardly suggests that we are here dealing with one of the most important events in all human history- the carrying of Xty from Asia into Europe.

We appreciate the significance of Columbus setting sail from Spain: of Vasca da Gama rounding the Cape of Good Hope for a new route into the Indies: but have you ever thot what might have been the course of history had not Xty taken root in Europe? In Asia where Mohammedanism became dominant what chance would Xty have had?

And the peculiar fact about Paul's going into Europe is that he had not planned to do so. He wanted to go into Bithynia, one of the fairest, richest provinces of Asia Minor. To carry the Gospel there would have been a triumph. But the record says that the Spirit stopt Paul from going to Bithynia and ordered him to go instead to Troas.

When Paul started out to do something he usually finished the task. I can imagine how Paul must have wrestled hard with himself to consent to change his plans.

And when the Apostle did go to Troas little must he have realized that by so doing he was rendering the cause of Christ his greatest service. Out of the left-overs of his broken plans Paul renders his most far-reaching and significant service to mankind. It is a good cook who knows how to make his best out of the left-overs, is it not? And that was Paul's problem. Wanting Bithynia and getting Troas- the second-best, the broken plans, the left-overs. His was a common experience for most people are compelled to take second best in life: but his was a rare experience in that he made of his second best the greatest thing he ever did in life.

And yet this is just what many great men have done, who, cheated out of their Bithynias, have gone to Troas to do the very thing that made them great.

Take the example of Phillips Brooks. Brooks had not planned to be a preacher. He wanted to be a teacher. But soon after graduating from College he failed in his chosen profession. To him it was a humiliating ecperience to discover that he was a failure as a teacher. Pres.Elliot of Harvard offered Brooks another position as teacher but Phillip Brooks, as white as a sheet, left the study of the President to go to his Troas instead. And Phillips Brooks as preacher rendered a service that he perhaps could not have rendered otherwise with a dundred lives.

Sir Walter Scott wanted to be a poet. But others overshadowed him along that line and he was driven to his Troas- to writing novels. And how hreatly endirned all times have been made because of the novels which Sir Walter Scott wrote.

We see the great army of youth marching out of their schools and universities, all headed for their Bithynias. Be we who are older knw right well that most of them will be shoved over into Troas sooner or later. And since this is such a common experience, well might we look into Paul himself to find just those things which enabled him to make such a triumphant success out of his broken plans, out of his left-overs.

I. In the first place we note that Paul carried his religion with him.

However shaken up the apostle may have been, he clearly saw that God was in it all and that it was for some definite purpose.

Right here is where so many Xns fail, is it not? They can understand how God controlls the whole universe, but they cannot grasp the thot that God has a plan for each indivisual part of the universe. God to them is a far-away ruler, but not a directing companionship.

Illustration- the remodeling of the church, according to plans. Every detail and minute part gets the attention of the rebuilders .

No matter how big the enterprise the minute details must me attended to or else the whole cannot be realized. And so God cannot build his universe according to plans except He gives due regard to every indivisual that goes to make up the whole of humanity.

We may not see every step God is taking with reference to us, be we should believe that He direct-

Council Commander

Past

Adviser

Escort

Banker

Absent Cmp Mr. W. O. W.

met Mon. eve Dec. 15 1924

Council Commander

Banker

Escort

Absent

Banker Pres

P. C. C. Pres. Stanley

Sec. Absent

Watchman Pres. Jaggers

Sentry Abs. Larson

Clerk Abs.

Mgr. Pres. Stanfield

Committee to write letter

Clyde Washburn

wrote Knights Chamber

of Commerce

3. our lives and we should follow his directions as closely as we know how.

II. Not only did Paul's religion enter into his situation, but also that fine fruit of Paul's religion- his love for people.

The trouble with most people when the reach their Troas is that they begin pitying themselves. As soon as he reached Troas, how easy it would have been for Paul to be sorry for himself. But no, he began thing about other people and soon the doors began to open up to the missionary cause which he represented. Paul heeded the call for help which came to him

Nothing makes a man strong like a call for help.
A mother fatigued-all played out cares for a child that takes sick.
A retired member of the family having to become a bread-winner for the family again. Take on a new lease of life and go at it as tho 20 yrs younger.

"Nothing makes a man strong like a call for help"
The trouble with most of us is that when we land in Troas we spend all our time pitying ourselves and never see the open door of opportunity-the call for help which will make us strong again.

We should all take a lesson from the oyster. When an annoying thing gets into the oyster's shell, and the oyster cannot get rid of it, it just builds a cushion around it and lo, the thing of annoyance is turned into a beautiful pearl, the most beautiful thing the oyster could possibly make.

That is just what Paul did at Troas. And this is the challenge given to every man who is compelled to go to Troas.

Emile Coue is right in declaring that imagination dominates our lives to a great extent.

Illustration of the walking on a plank.

When we get to Troas we see only our lost Bithynia and we think that we are beaten. And we are beaten. We say we are beaten. We imagine ourselves beaten.

But when Paul reached Troas his imagination pictured victory.

He would welcomed Christ Bithynia! But